



WOLFMAN & PÉREZ

H

KARL KESEL Inker

MARV WOLFMAN Writer **BILL WRAY**

Colorist

TOM ZIUKO Colorist

GEORGE PÉREZ Penciller

MIKE GOLD **BOB LEROSE** Editor Colorist



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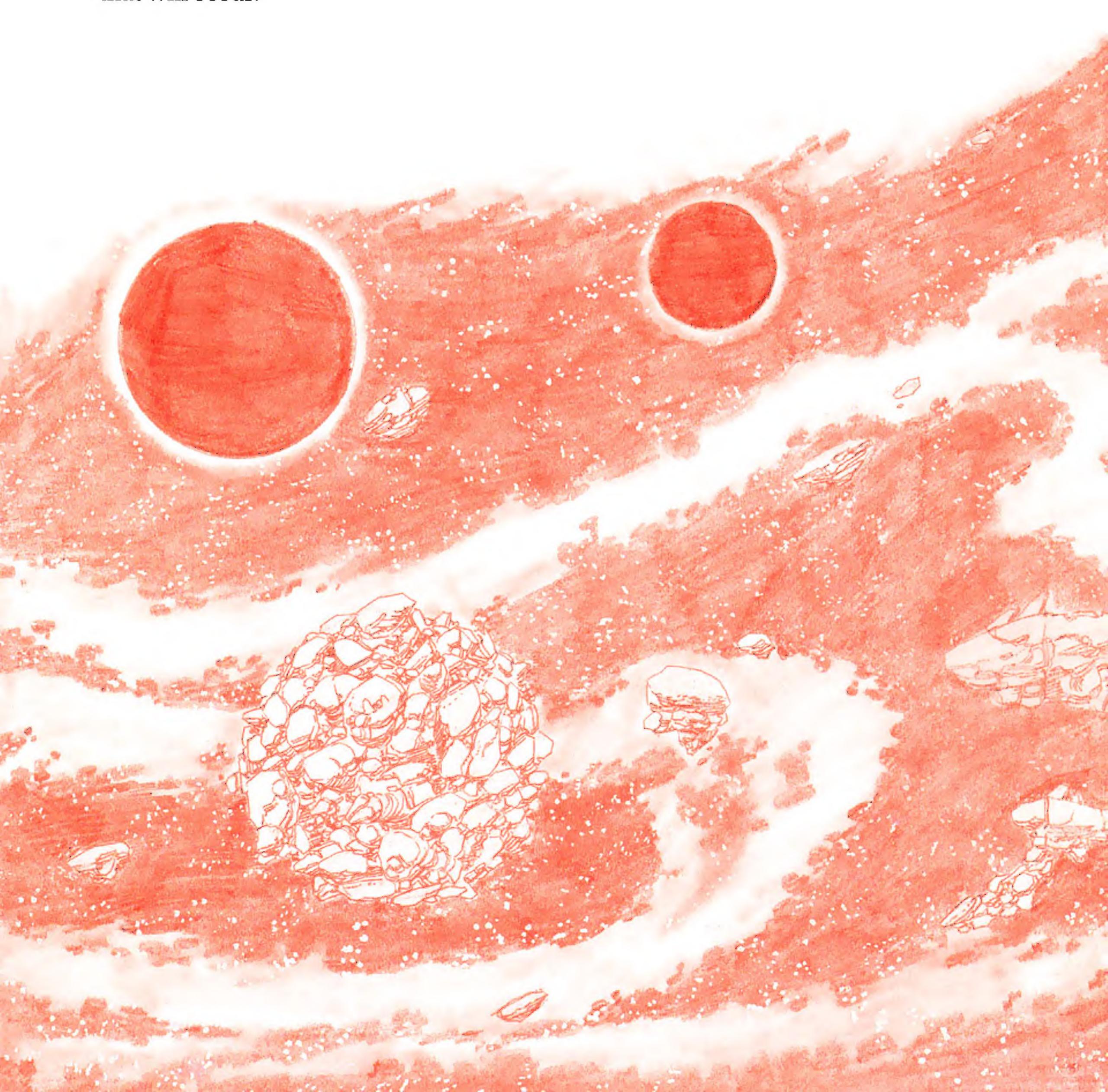


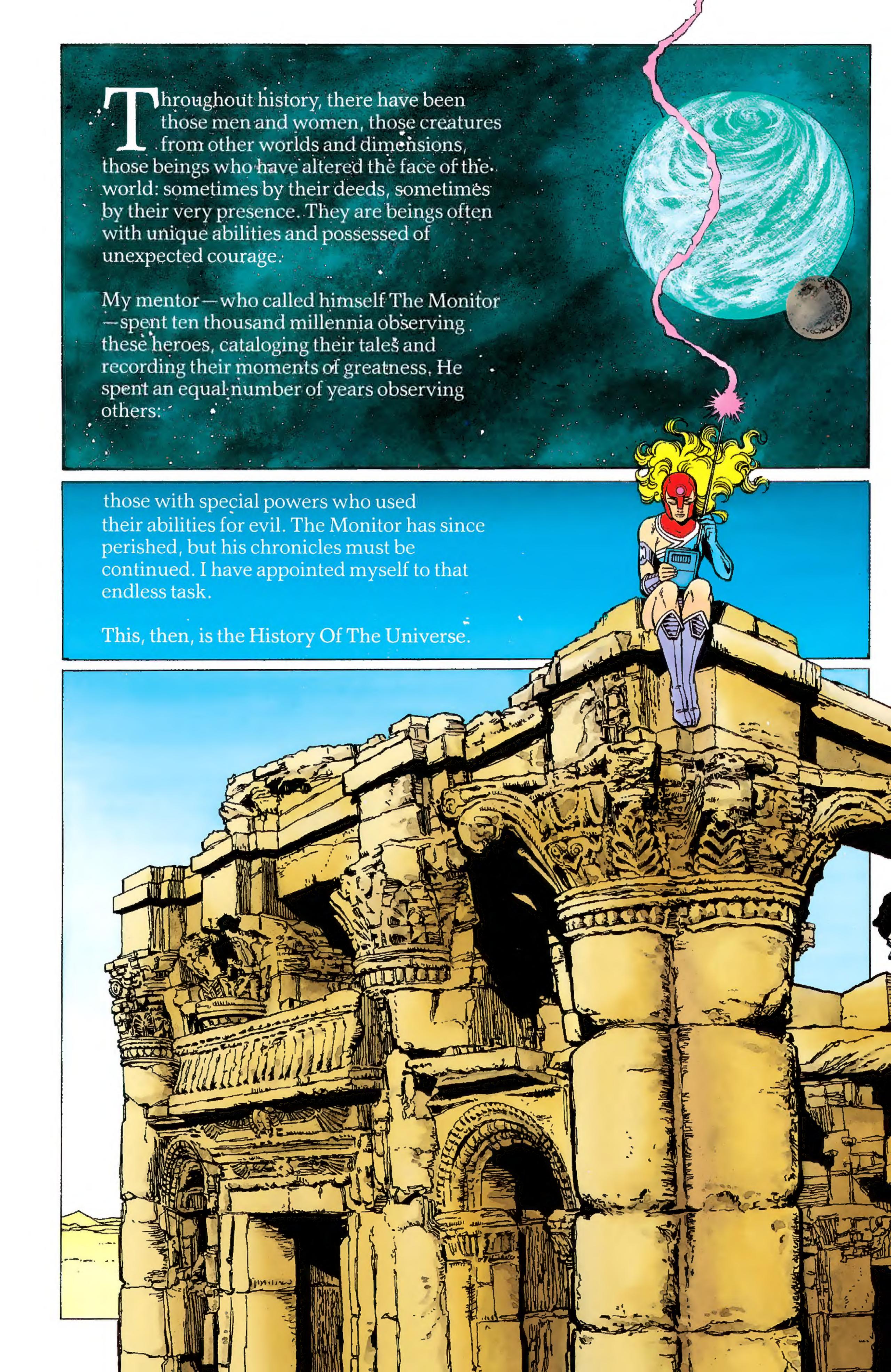
In the beginning, there was but one universe, one world... one Earth. At the moment of creation, a moment some believe inspired by an outside force, a moment others believe exploded whole and onto itself—a second universe was created of heat and light, gas and plasma, and a million other elements gestating in the cosmic womb. This was a universe of counterbalance...a negative universe to our positive creation: an existence of anti-matter to our positive matter. This was a universe of darkness, a universe of evil, a universe of twisted reality.

And in this second universe, there was born one single being who would live ten billion years and disrupt all future reality.

This then is that history of those ten billion years, and of the years that follow. This is not a chronological retelling of historical events which can be read in any text—this is the history of heroism.

My name is Harbinger and I am honor-bound to record all that has happened and all that will occur.



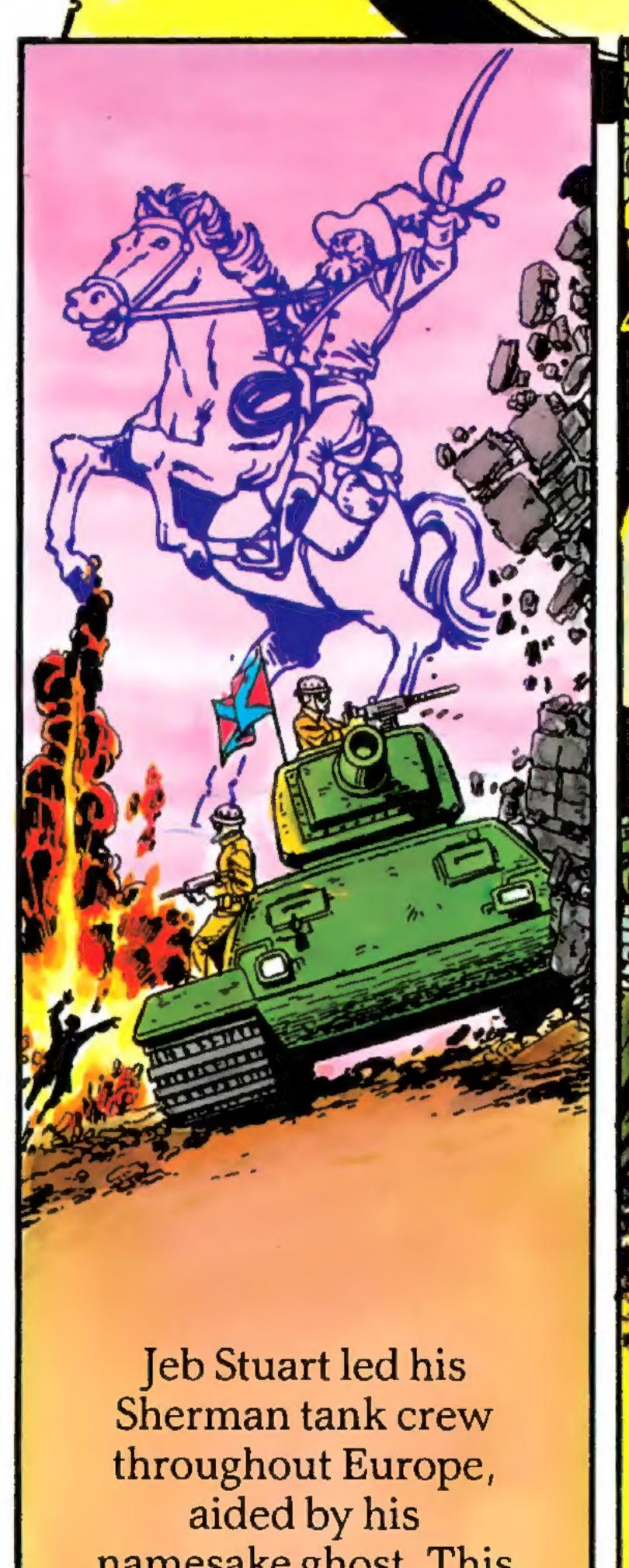






Project M created

monster-like beings to



Jeb Stuart led his
Sherman tank crew
throughout Europe,
aided by his
namesake ghost. This
Haunted Tank scored
impressive victories.

battle in war's most
bizarre campaigns.
The Creature
Commandos' record
of victory was
stunning, as were
those of the famed
G.I. Robot and the
mysterious Viking
Commando.



But here, as in all wars, it was the ordinary soldier who proved it does not require special powers to become a hero.













The history of heroes spans the universe from a mutant born ahead of his time to the carried dynama. Mars



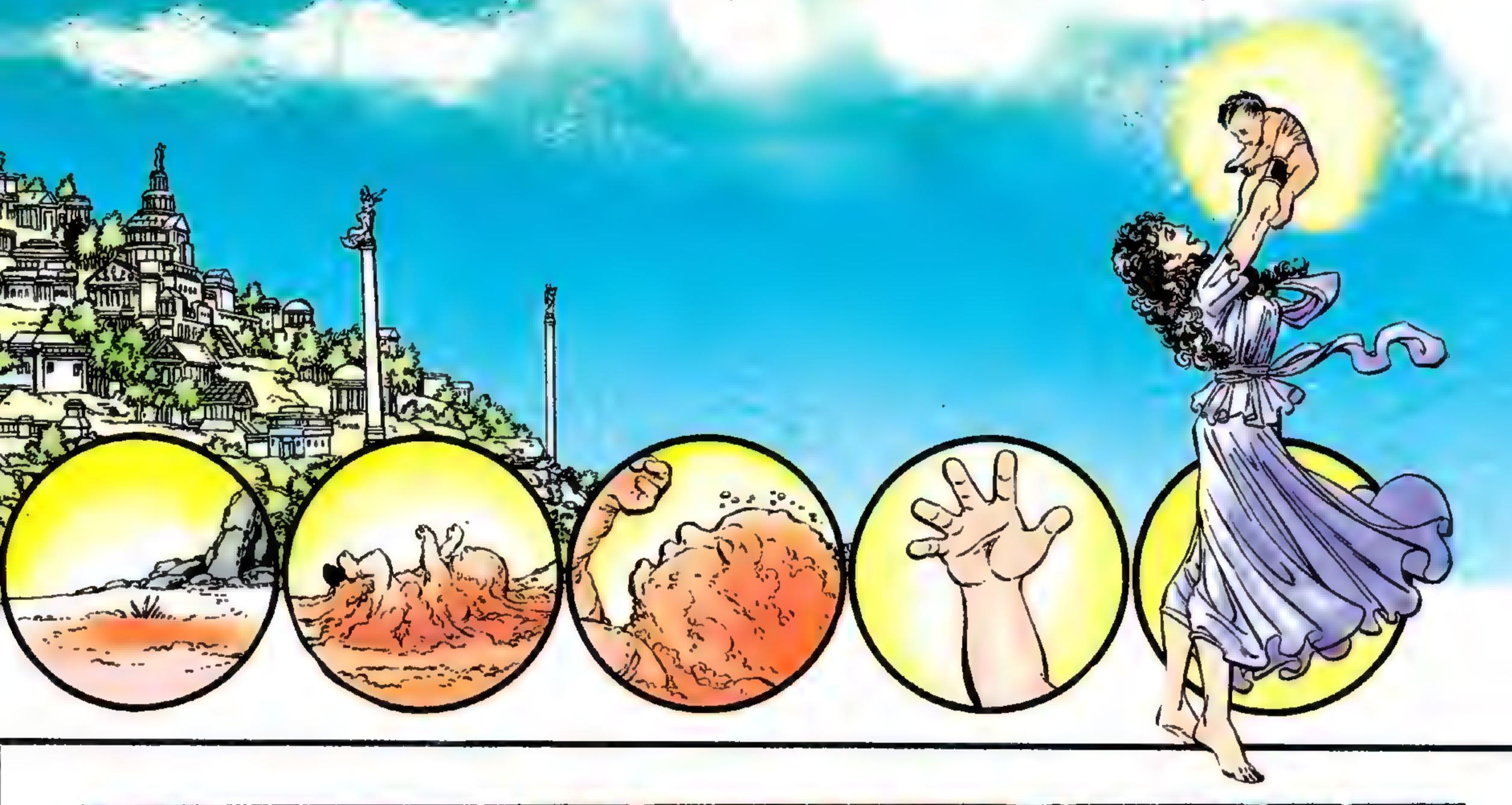
Wattion Jones, exilerated the parched Martian desert was telept red accidentally to the planet Earth by the famous Professor Erdel. This Manhunter from Mars knew the time of heroes had not yet come and so remained in hiding, disguising hims at a police detective until, at last the could a low the world to know of his existence.

It would take the here cappearances of the last son of Krypton, the colld from Atlantis and the orphan from Gothan City to change the climate for super-heroese.





he children from Krypton, Atlantis and Gotham City were in their late teens when another child was born not from flesh and blood and bone but from mud and clay and given life by the Gods of Olympus. Born on Paradise Island, an inaccessible land in the middle of the Atlantic, the child Diana would grow up to become the greatest heroine of all time. Krypton, Gotham City and Paradise Island—from those very different locations emerged a triumvirate of Power and justice.





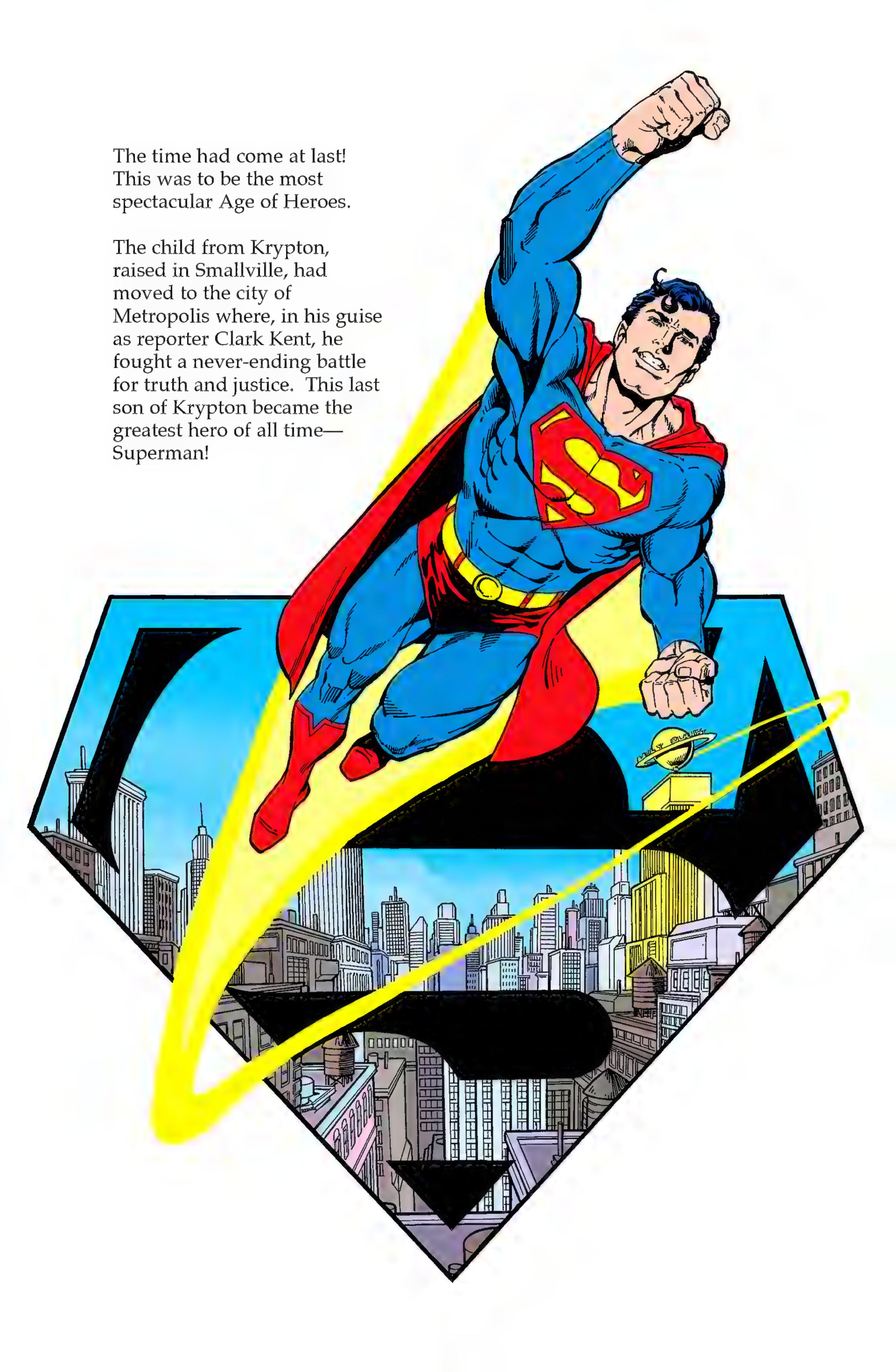
soon become the first

Blue Beetle.

In America, a lost and lonely woman was chosen by an interdimensional demon known as Trigon to become his mate and the mother of his child with whom he would conquer our dimension.

And, at sea, a frightened child who had witnessed the drowning of her parents was rescued by the alien known as The Monitor. The child was brought to his satellite and was raised into adulthood.

I am that child.







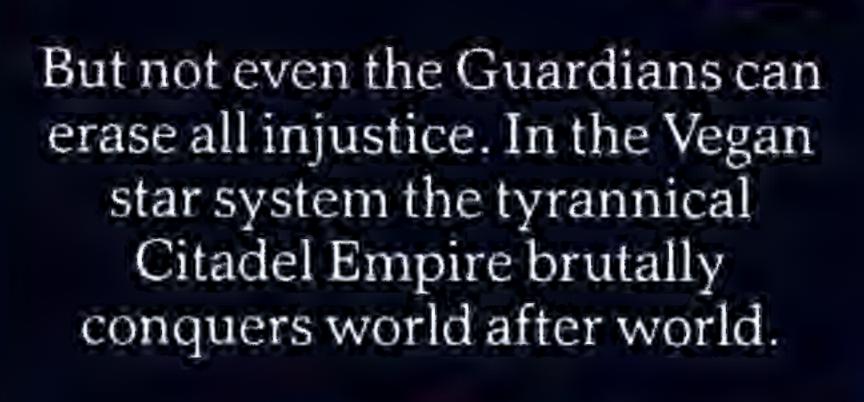


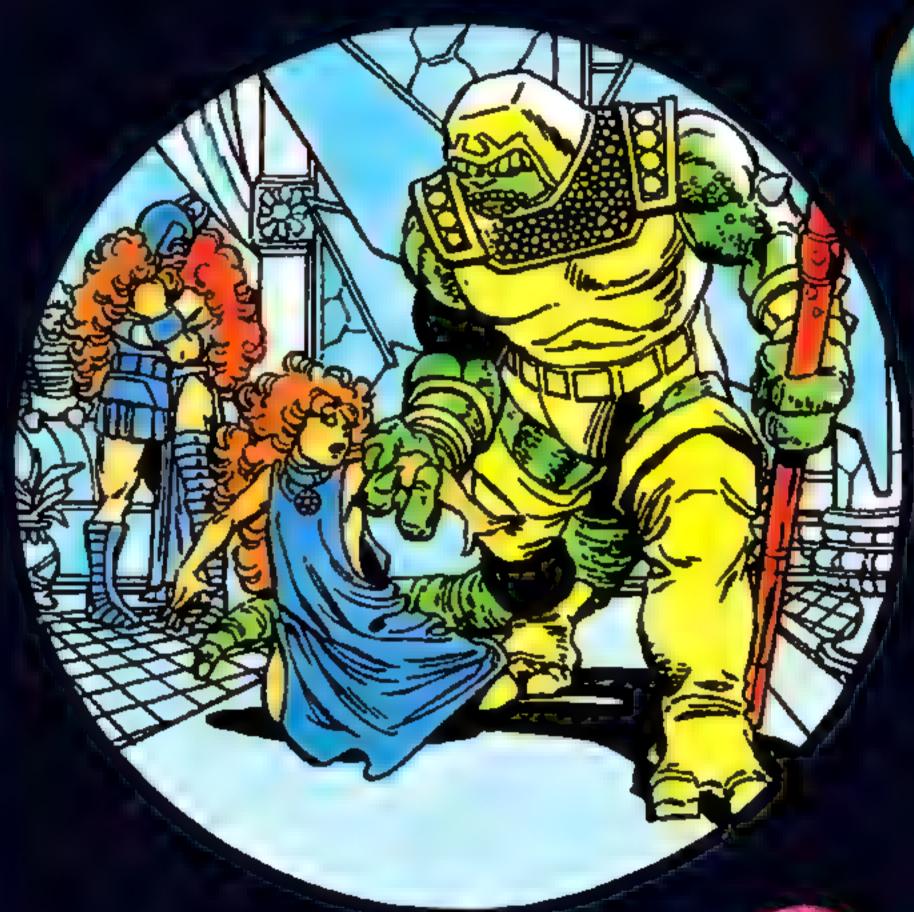
For ten billion years the Guardians of the Universe have preserved the heroic tradition, ever recruiting new warriors to fight in the cause of justice.



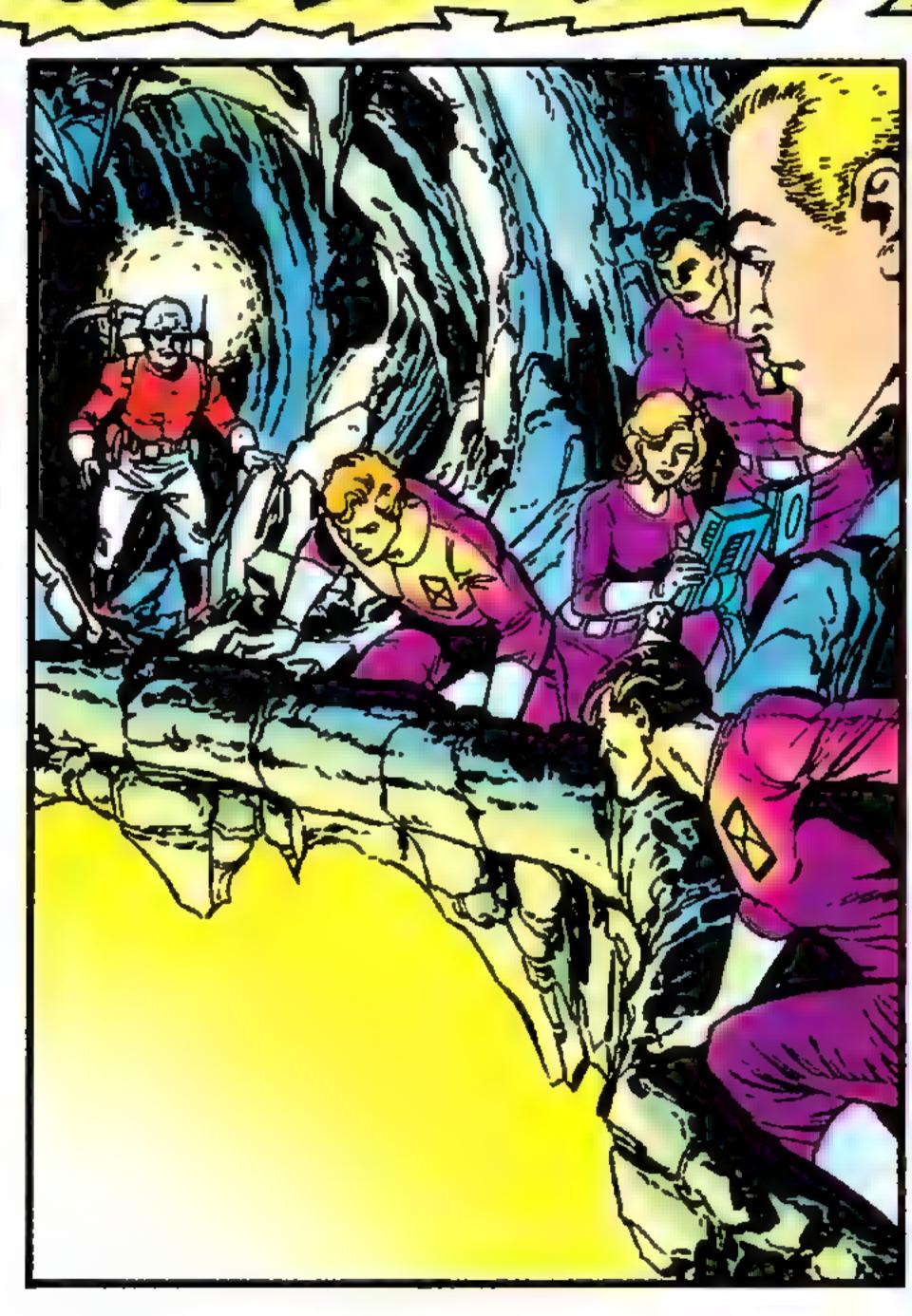
Their vigilance in the name of universal peace never weakens.

The Green Lantern Corps continues to battle evil wherever it is found.



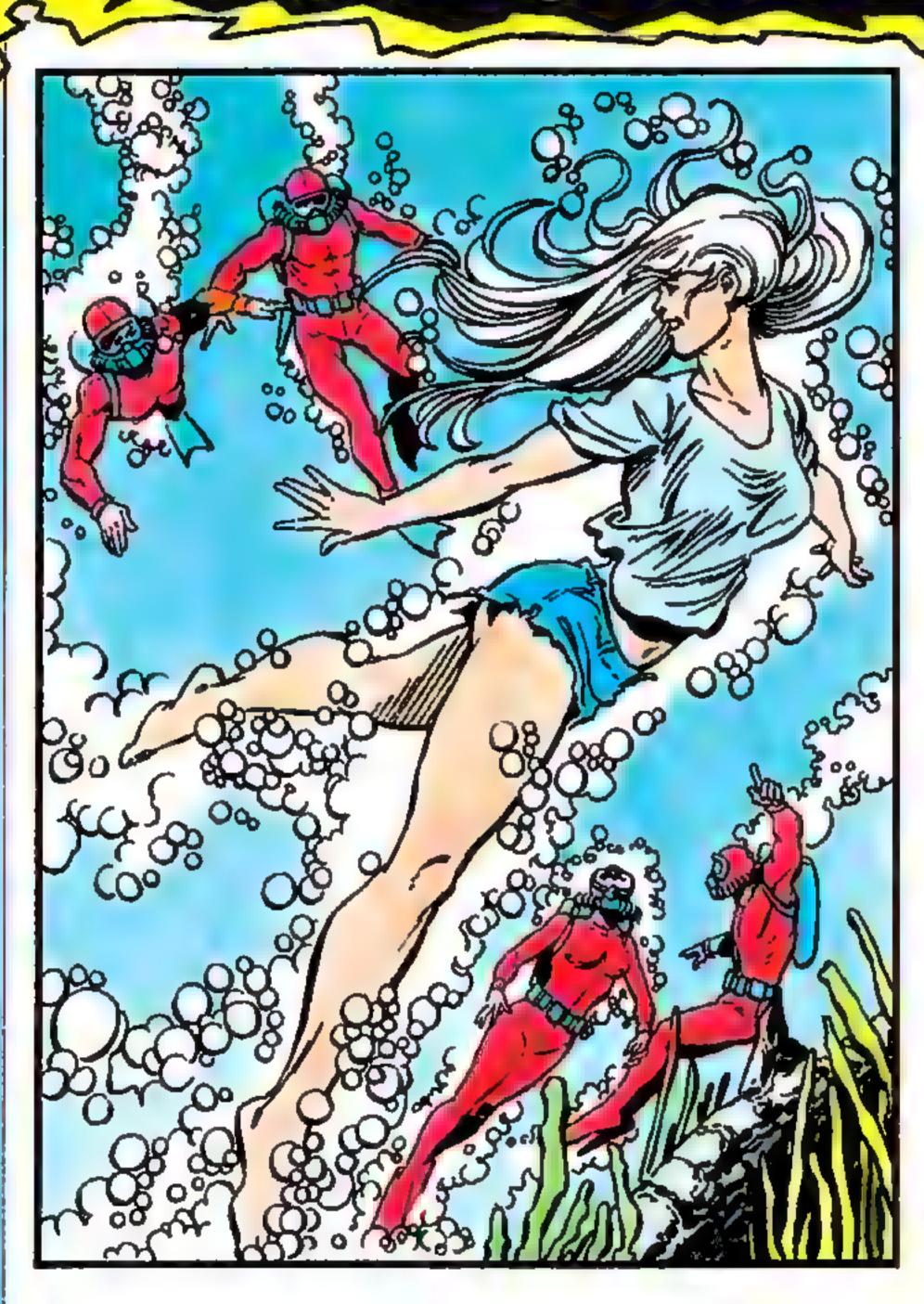


The planet Tamaran is conquered and their Princess is enslaved. But young Koriand'r would one day return to Tamaran to help destroy the Citadel despots.



On Earth, the heroic tradition continues. Scientists such as geologist Cave Carson left the safety of the laboratory to help mankind in times of danger, joining courageous adventurers such as The Challengers of the Unknown.

Archaeologist Adam Strange was transported accidentally more than 25 trillion miles from Earth to the planet Rann. There he became their greatest champion, saving their troubled planet from peril after peril.



Heroes are found everywhere, from deep space to the depths of the seven seas...from ordinary divers such as the famed Sea Devils, to mysterious beauties such as the enigmatic Dolphin.

This was now the Silver Age of heroes, and some of the greatest who ever lived banded together to fight evil on Earth and throughout the stars. Inspired by the wartime exploits of the famed All-Stars and the Justice Society, these young heroes took the name the Justice League of America.

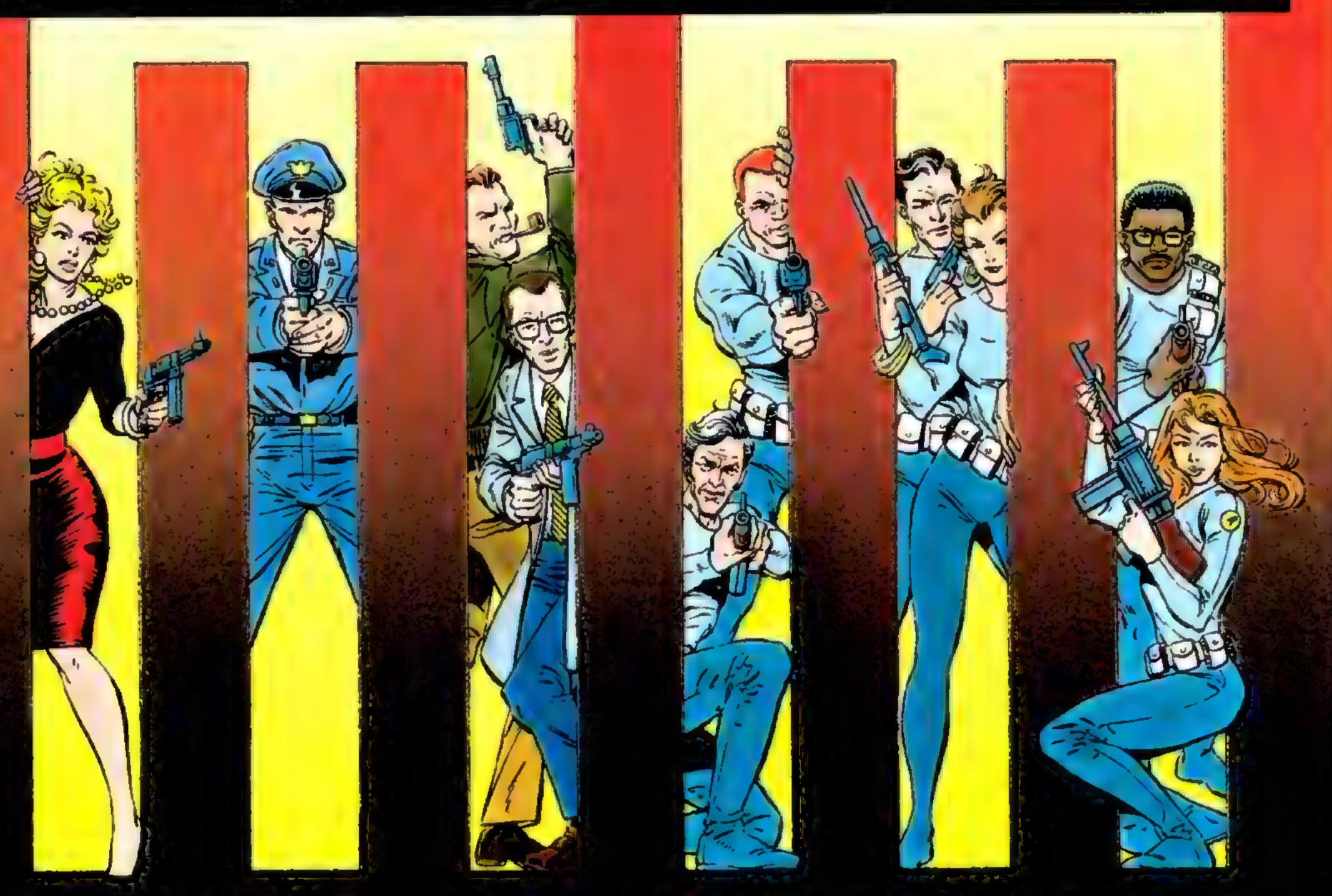




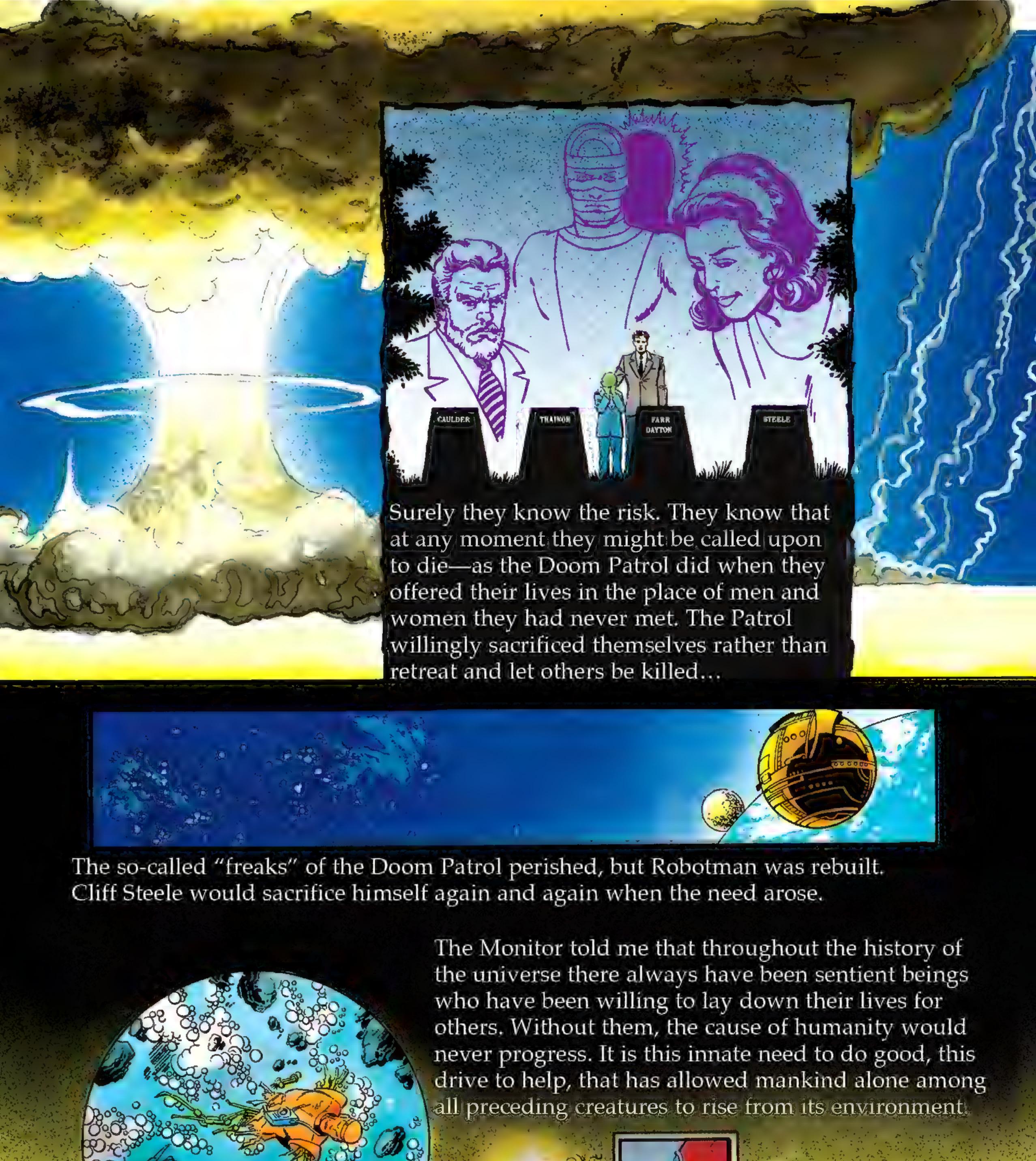


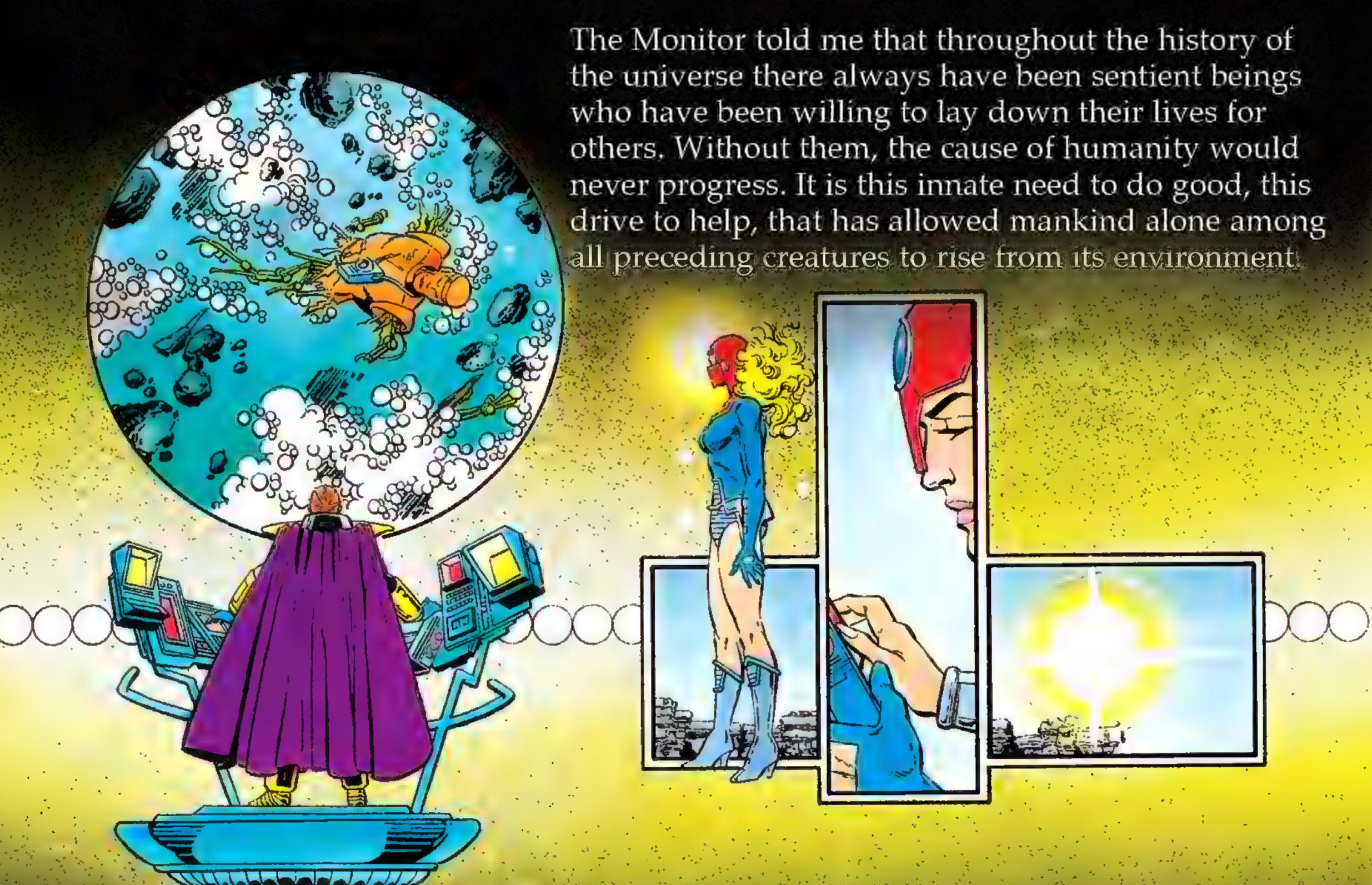


What could make men such as King Faraday and Sarge Steel join in the battle against evil? What could motivate Rick Flag, Jr. to risk not only his life but the lives of his friends in re-forming The Suicide Squad?



Perhaps the mysterious Mockingbird originally blackmailed the individuals who formed The Secret Six, but why did they relish their every assignment? Did they have some secret drive which pushed them ever further into missions of danger? What is it that makes one a Hero?



















A subway station in San Francisco leads a young boy to discover a legend dimly remembered by mortals. Billy Batson stands on the threshold of a new existence: with one magic word—Shazam!—he becomes the World's Mightiest Mortal: Captain Marvel.

The new hero maintains a low profile, until Darkseid the Destroyer challenges the very soul of heroism and inspires Captain Marvel to take his rightful place alongside the legends of the universe.



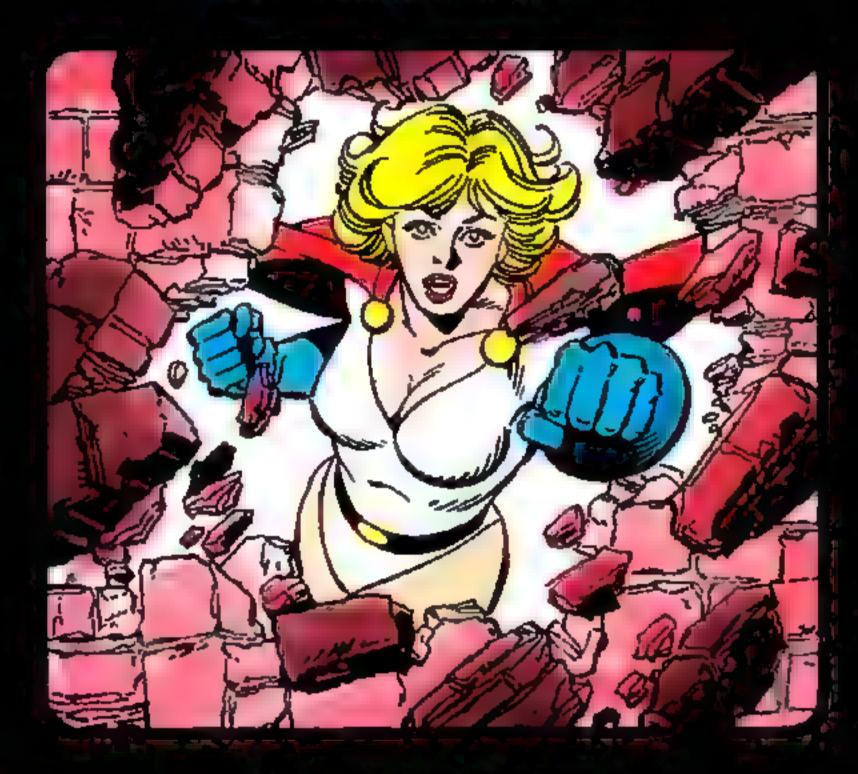


Thus far in this narrative, I have centered on the heroes of North America because this is where exists the greatest concentration of heroes. But there are heroes outside the United States, and many banded together to form The Global Guardians.

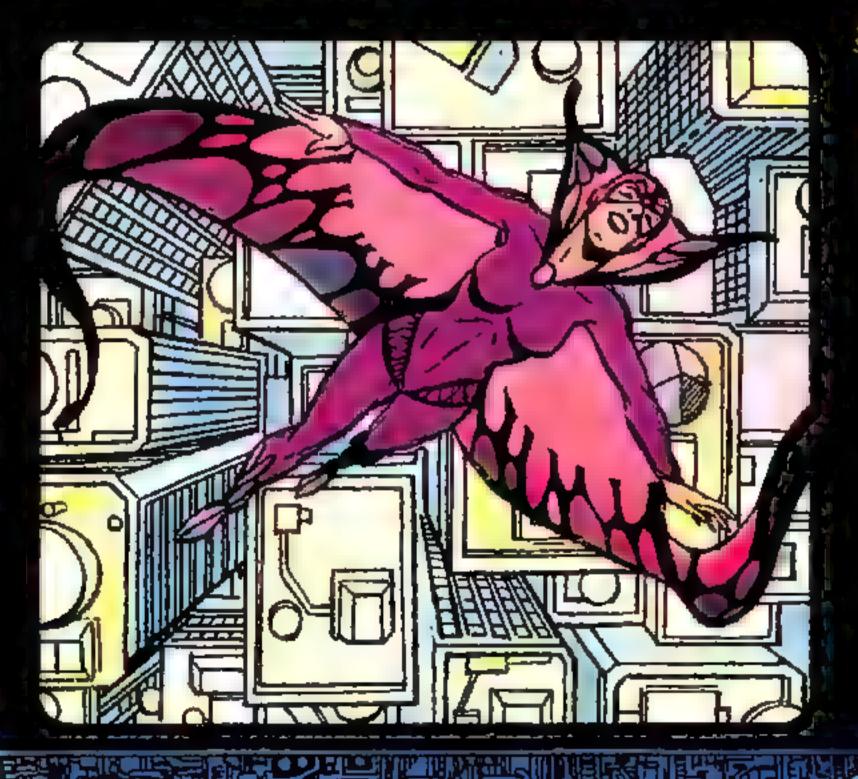




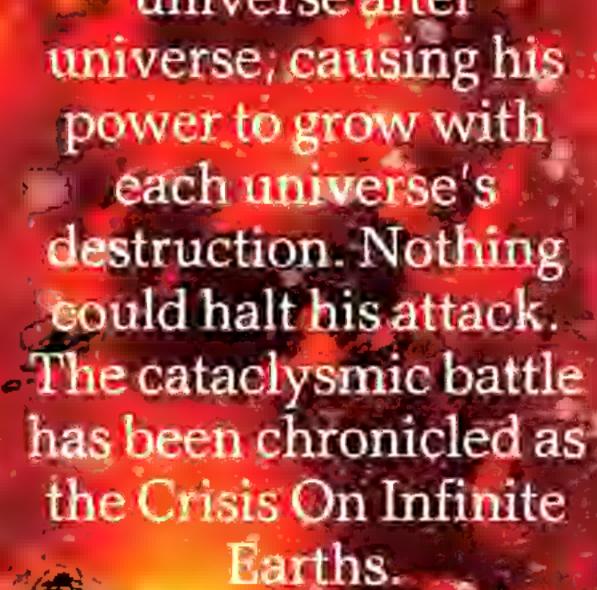
The Blue Devil...
...Power Girl...



...the mysterious Black Orchid...



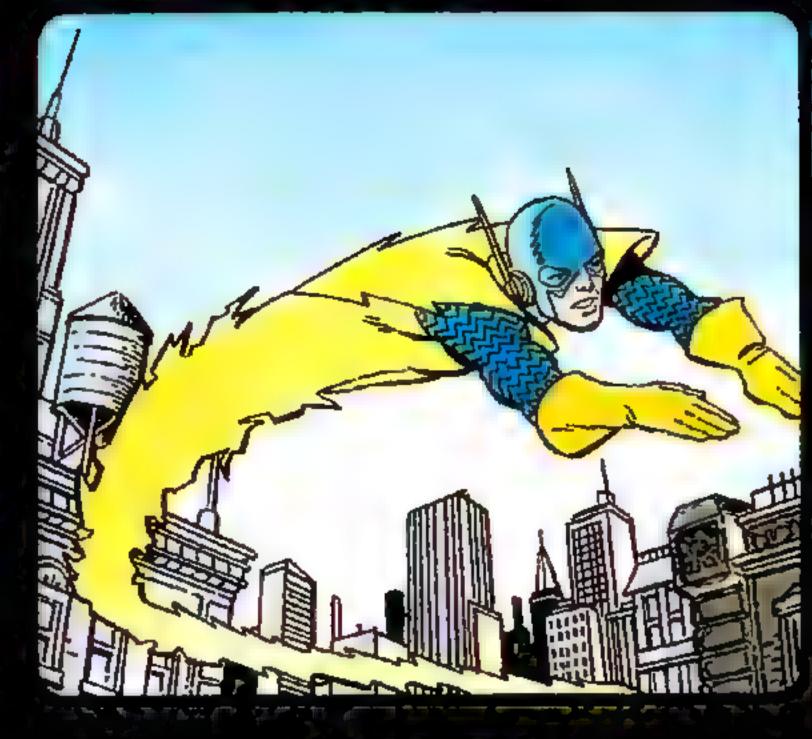
The Anti-Monitor's hunger for power led him to destroy universe after universe, causing his power to grow with each universe's destruction. Nothing





I must pause now for what is to become a personal history. Until now I have merely read the computer files of The Monitor, with my comments clearly marked. But now the history involves me and the actions which led me to kill my mentor.

Ten billion years ago, two beings were born. In our universe came The Monitor, but his brother was born in the anti-matter universe of Qward.



...Air Wave... ...The Vigilante...



...and the robotic Red Tornado.
The world would be safe,
for a time.













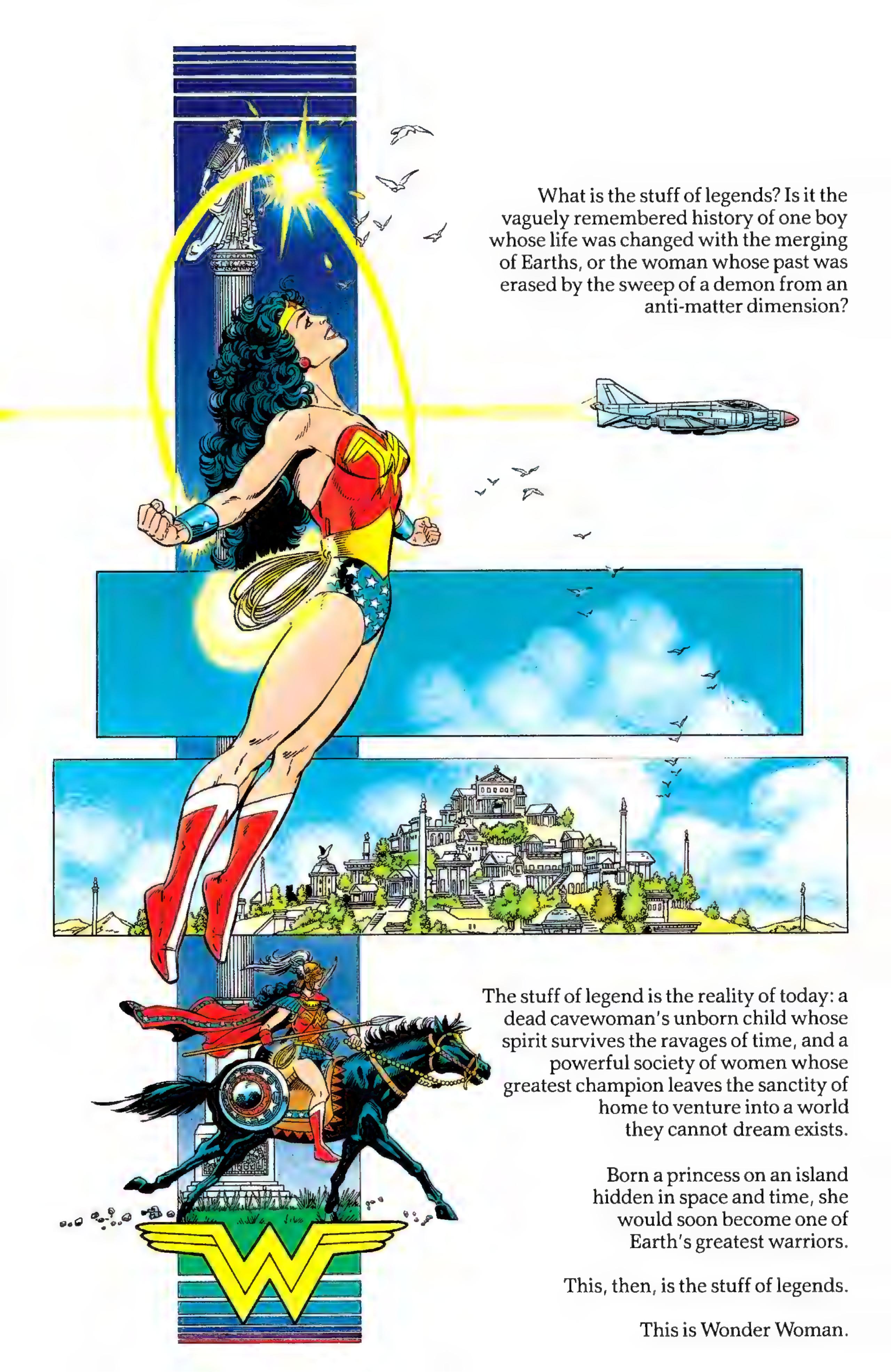


Darkseid's dreams of glory faded, but from his fevered wish to destroy the fabric of legend, new ones were given birth.



The Justice League of America was no longer, but in its wake a new force was born. Forevermore this international—even interplanetary—team would be called The Justice League.





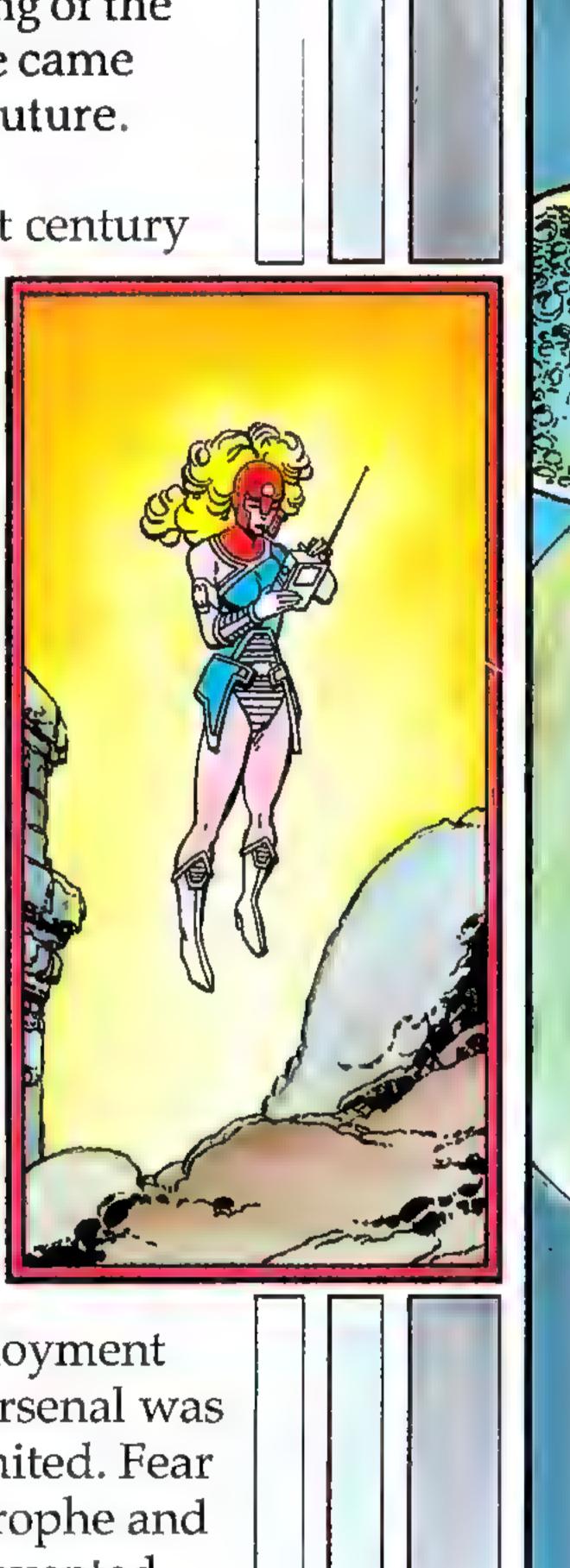
ntil now this narrative has dealt with times past and present. We have seen the history of the universe and its current events. But The Monitor's computers can see not only what was and is, but what will be.

With the merging of the universes, there came one consistent future.

The twenty-first century

began not with the hoped-for peace between nations, but with the harsh reality of war. The seven superpowers that existed at the dawn of the new millennium withheld the use of their nuclear arsenal until the war's final days.

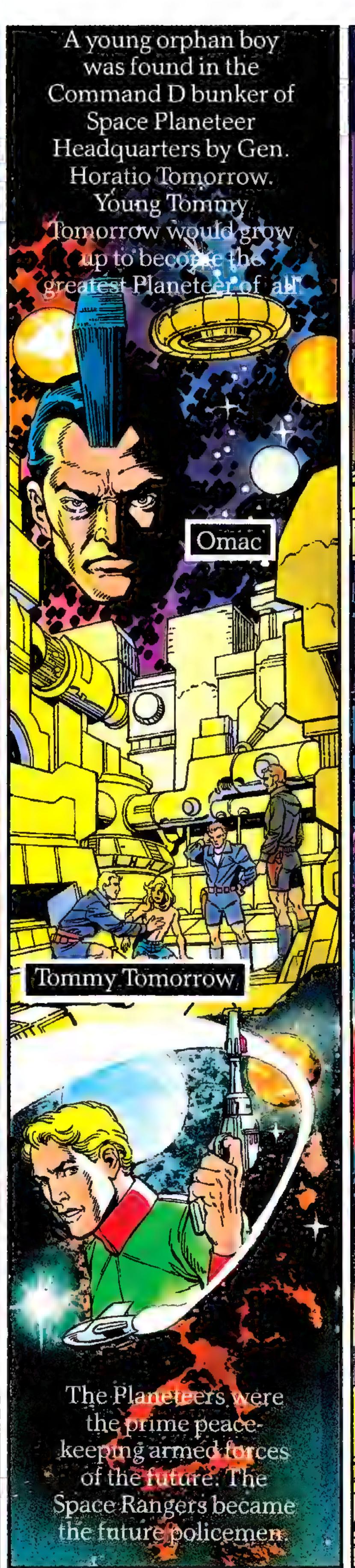
Even then, deployment of the nuclear arsenal was surprisingly limited. Fear of global catastrophe and annihilation prevented even the Terrorist Triumvirate from launching a full-scale attack. In all, only seventeen nuclear missiles were launched. Only six reached their targets. Destruction, though widespread, was contained to a half-dozen areas around the globe, but even this limited war could not prevent the chaos that ensued. The Earth became a new, grim world.

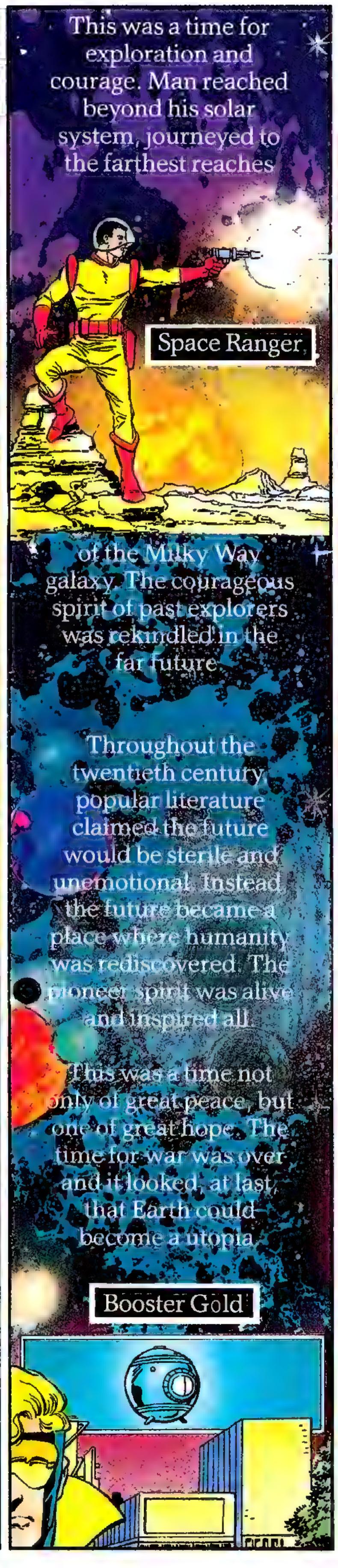






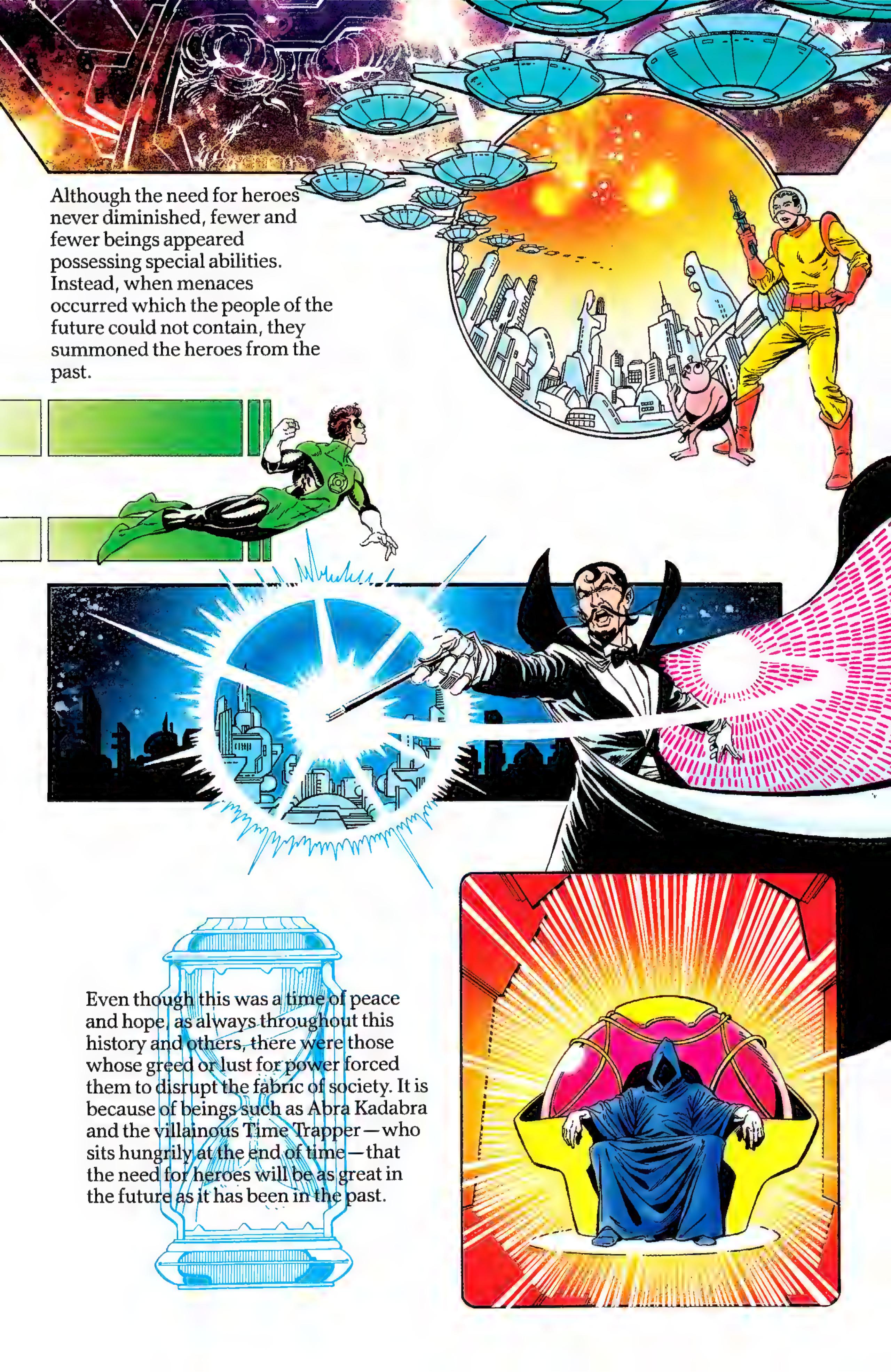
The future was one of peace. Within one century, mankind had regained its control over the Earth. Space was conquered. At long last, Earthlings had reached the stars!







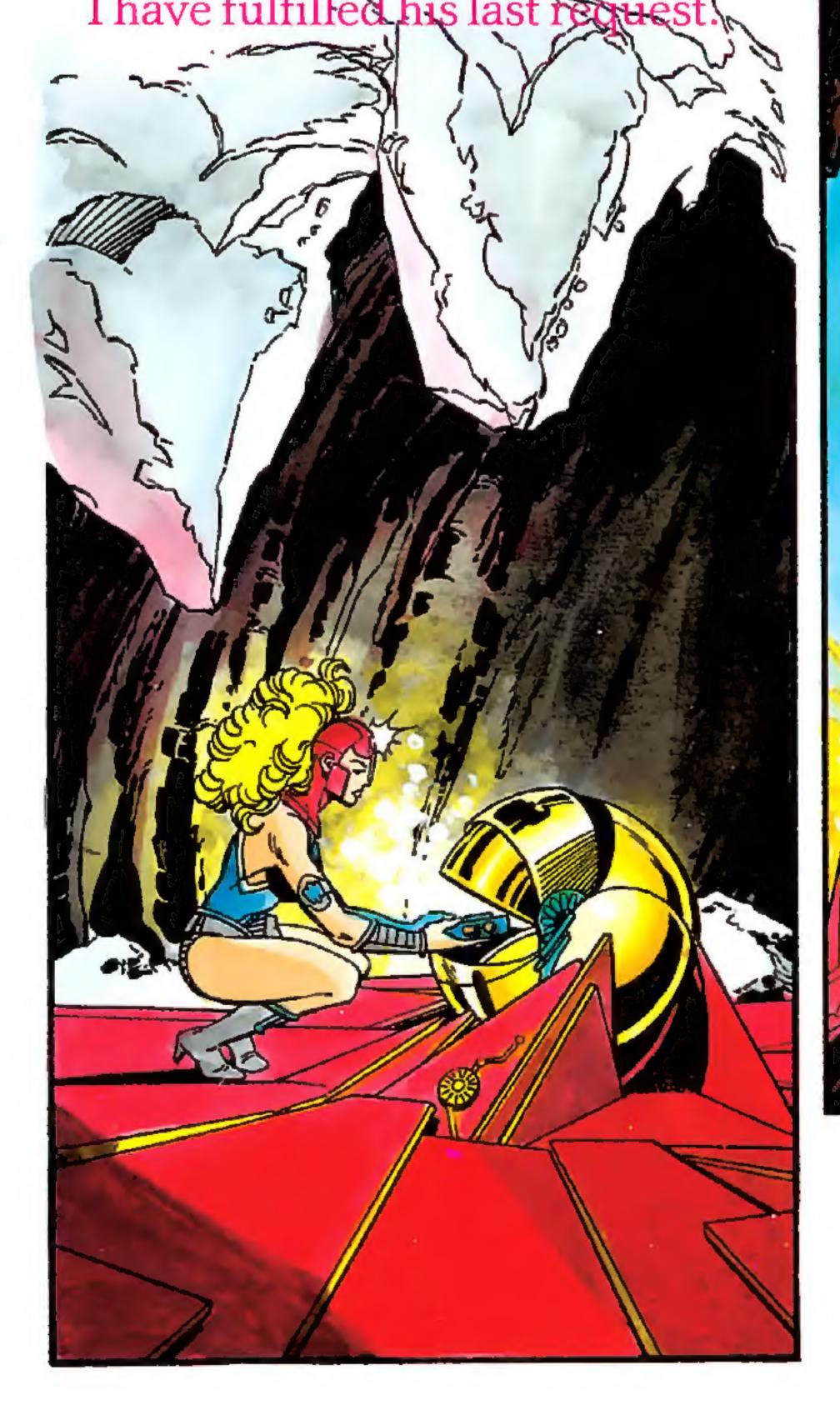


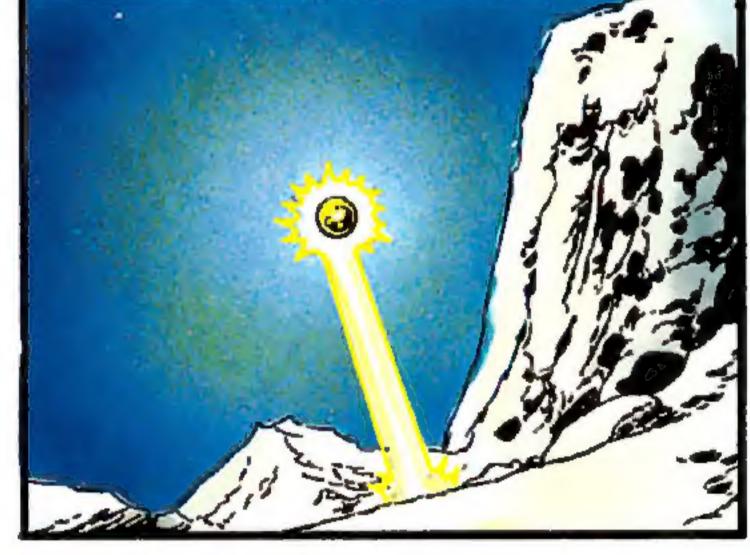




I had sworn that I would complete the Monitor's work, and so I have, but this history may not be seen by any mortal eyes. The future must unfold as it comes—day by day, allowing for the ebb and flow of change.

It ends now. The Monitor had dreamed of saving the universe, and so he did; he dreamed of compiling its heroic history, and I have fulfilled his last request.





And is so doing, I have learned the truth: the stuff of heroes is within us all—the willingness to go beyond the normal routine and lend help to those who need it.

Give food to the hungry, freedom to the oppressed, safety to the victim, peace to the survivors of war.

I remember as a child the so-called Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. To be a hero is to live by those words.

It is as simple as that.

I bid you now farewell.





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